



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS RELEASE

United States Attorney Patrick L. Meehan, Philadelphia District Attorney Lynne Abraham, and John C. Eckenrode, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, announced today the filing of a nine-count Indictment¹ charging defendants Eville Vargas, David Roman, Agustin Sanchez, George Rivera, Jaqueline White, John Doe, a/k/a "Polo," and Arily Monserrat, with conspiracy to interfere with interstate commerce by robbery, interference with interstate commerce by robbery and aiding and abetting, and carrying and use of a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence and aiding and abetting. These charges arise out of the defendants' participation in four armed robberies of the Emerald Deli, K Laundromat, and Philly Self Storage, all located in the City of Philadelphia.

This investigation and prosecution was part of *Project Safe Neighborhoods*, a joint initiative by the United States Attorney's Office, the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to identify and prosecute dangerous firearms offenders in federal court, where the defendants are likely to receive a substantial sentence upon conviction. Recently, as an extension of Project Safe Neighborhoods, the United States Attorney's Office, FBI, ATF, Philadelphia Police Department, and other law enforcement agencies have established the *Hobbs Act Robbery Task Force* to investigate and prosecute organized gangs and groups committing commercial armed robberies in this district.

The defendants face a total maximum sentence of lifetime imprisonment, up to 5 years supervised release, a \$2,250,000 fine, and a \$900 special assessment. Defendants Vargas and Roman face a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 85 years consecutive to any other sentence imposed. Defendants White, Monserrat, and Doe face a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 35 years consecutive to any other sentence imposed. Defendant Rivera faces a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 10 years consecutive to any other sentence imposed.

This case has been investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Philadelphia Police Department. The case has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Salvatore L. Astolfi.

¹ **An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.**

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR DATE OF BIRTH
DAVID ROMAN	Philadelphia, PA	1980
EVILLE VARGAS	Bronx, NY	9/12/66
AGUSTIN SANCHEZ	Lancaster, PA	7/2/77
GEORGE RIVERA	Philadelphia, PA	1982
JAQUELINE WHITE	Bronx, NY	unknown
JOHN DOE, a/k/a "Polo"	Philadelphia	unknown
ARILY MONSERRAT	Philadelphia	1977

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